



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Divine Visitation . . . By Billy

READ GENESIS 18: 1-21; 19:1-3

- Today I would like us to reflect upon the visits of God in 3 distinct situations beginning in *Gen.18* Immediately Abraham recognized that this was a heavenly visitation so he pleaded with them to stay for a meal.
- Do we recognize the time of visitation when the Spirit of God draws our soul out after the living God?
- It is then that we are willing to give something of worth to God. When we encounter God and sense His visitation upon our hearts there is an overwhelming longing to respond with thanksgiving, ministry and worship.
- I am reminded of the woman who poured the costly ointment upon the feet of Jesus. There was no cost too high for her to pay. (*Luke 7:35-50*). In *Luke 7:36-50* there is a contrast presented between the response of a forgiven sinner and Simon the Pharisee to the visit of Jesus.
- Notice how Jesus answers the apprehensions of Simon who was concerned that Jesus would be polluted by associating with a sinful woman. He asks Simon why he did not provide water to wash his feet, oil to anoint his head and a kiss to welcome him.
- Why was his visit treated as a mere formality and reduced to a curious intellectual discussion rather than an opportunity to love the One who paid such a great cost for forgiveness of sins. "He who is forgiven much loves much..." (*Luke 7:47*).
- Returning to *Gen.18* we notice that Abraham was such a man of faith as to perceive that his day of visitation had come. However, when we consider the response of his nephew Lot in *Gen.19:1-3* we are faced with more contrast.
- Lot's offer of hospitality is resisted initially until the angels are compelled to oblige. There is a sense that they are ill at ease because they are in an environment of compromise.
- Remember Lot had since become one of the leaders of the city council and because Sodom was such a wicked place he was becoming less and less discerning. Lot had failed to recognize that this visitation was all about judgment whereas in the case of Abraham and Sarah, the visit was about the confirmation of God's promise.
- God truly visits His people for many reasons; as Comforter, as Healer, as interceding High Priest and many are the occasions when He comes as a Deliverer.
- How blessed we are when God comes to us as a faithful friend in order to confirm His everlasting covenant.
- When God visits us is it for the purpose of constant rescuing? Are there not times when He comes to us for fellowship and confirmation of His word to our hearts?
- It ought to be our constant prayer that God will visit us, that He will anoint us afresh with the Holy Spirit and that we will recognize the time of his visitation. ■



WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Week 16

Events /Notices

- ▶ Church weekend away *April 26-28th*

Extra Services

If you have children with you, these are the facilities provided:

- ▶ Crèche and Pre-school Praise



- ▶ Sunday School



Come, my children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. (Psalm 34:11)

- ▶ Tea and Coffee



Hebrews 13:2